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Central Intelligence Agency Operates Under Cover to Bar Another Pearl Harbor

By WILLIAM McGAFFIN

Washington—(CDN)—They operate in the best cloak and dagger tradition at the Central Intelligence Agency here.

Agents are trained and dispatched to the far corners of the world in search of intelligence about our potential enemies.

They operate under a variety of covers. Ideally, if the situation permits, they are planted in a foreign country on a long-range timetable and work under the natural cover of whatever their profession may be—writer, professor, businessman, for instance.

But if time is pressing, they may be given a false identity, a forged passport and parachuted into a country under cover of dark.

They can speak the language of the place they are assigned to, of course. It takes about two years for them to learn Chinese, less for Arabic and Russian.

They know how to pick a lock, how to blow up a railroad bridge, how to organize a slowdown strike, how to undermine a cabinet.

They read the messages in code, sometimes on a piece of microfilm concealed beneath a postage stamp.

If their reports are not enough, they may be the eyes of only one man—John W. Dulles, the 63-year-old master spy who heads the Central Intelligence Agency.

It's quite an experience to visit Dulles' headquarters here. He is a direct opposite in personality to his older brother, John Foster Dulles.

J. W. Friendly Chap

Alfred is tall and jovial. He wears a white moustache, smokes a pipe and exudes a friendly charm.

He made a terrific reputation for himself as our boss agent in Switzerland during the last war, operating an espionage network that reached right into the upper levels of the Hitler government.

The cluster of red brick headquarters buildings at 2430 E St., N.W., are surrounded by a barbed wire fence. You can't move a step inside without an escort, who carries a key to the locked elevators.

Stenographers remove the ribbons from their typewriters at night and lock them in their safes. All wastepaper is gathered up and burned in an incinerator on the grounds.

In addition to talking to Dulles, I have interviewed four of his key men. I am not allowed to disclose their names.

I know that the equipment in the headquarters includes a speedup reading machine and an electric brain that gives a quick list of essential reading on any situation or country.

But I did not get beyond a couple of wood-paneled offices, whose main working equipment seemed to consist of enormous maps.

The question in many a congressman's mind these days is not how the CIA does its job, but how well.

Only a handful have any inkling of what goes on. They are the

Senate on armed services and appropriations.

The rest of Congress does not even know how many persons work for CIA or how much it spends a year. Estimates on the CIA staff range from 8,000 to 30,000.

Guesses on its annual budget, which is hidden in the appropriations of other government departments, go all the way up to \$500 million.

Early this year President Eisenhower appointed watchdog board of eight distinguished Americans to monitor CIA and report back to him.

But a number of congressmen feel this isn't good enough. They are backing a move by Sen. Mansfield (D-Mont) to establish a congressional watchdog committee.

And how well has the CIA done since it was organized nine years ago?

ning, was caught napping by the Communist invasion of Korea.

It was overhauled after that, however. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith took over as director with Dulles as his deputy.

One of the innovations introduced was a system of national estimates prepared on the probable intentions and capabilities of every potential enemy.

In recent years the CIA is credited with overthrowing the Mosaddegh regime in Iran and with foiling a Communist conspiracy in Guatemala.

But it still has been criticized by a Hoover Committee task force, headed by Gen. Mark Clark, on several scores.

One is that there is not enough concentration in collection of intelligence from behind the Iron Pearl Harbor.

At CIA headquarters, they refused to go into the criticism of the CIA or even to confirm its reports of successes.

The most could be out of them on this score in response to a question, was that they thought they had started a new one which would be another Harbor.

And there is a new defeat—a hotly debated bill to set up a special watchdog committee of Congress to keep the agency undoubtedly

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